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Media Release

St Vincent de Paul Northern Territory

Date: 6 August 2019

More housing and support services are needed to end homelessness in the Territory

St Vincent de Paul Society Northern Territory are at 100% housing occupancy in their housing facilities in Darwin and close to full occupancy in Katherine. The St Vincent de Paul Society is in a position of having to turn away on average six people a day.

Fran Avon, St Vincent de Paul Society CEO, said “the need for urgent housing outweighs our current resources. A long-term strategy with commitment from government, developers, organisations and the community working together is required to address this issue. We need to look not only at the provision of housing but what issues have led to homelessness. This will ensure support services are in place so those facing homelessness can maintain their housing once available”.

She further stated, “with the shortage of housing, by the time accommodation becomes available the individual’s situation is much worse or they have had to find alternative solutions”.

To begin this process of collaboration and looking at a wholistic report, St Vincent de Paul Society will host a Homelessness Week Open Day. This will be held on Wednesday 7 August at the drop-in centre Ozanam House at 2 Westralia Street, Stuart Park. This is an opportunity for service providers to come together to showcase their service offering and to highlight new initiatives in homelessness support. This will also be an opportunity to provide much needed information to people at risk of or experiencing homelessness. The event will run from 8am – 12pm.

St Vincent de Paul Society is a lay Catholic organisation working towards a more just and compassionate society.

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ENDS

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